



A congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America

Faithful to the Scriptures
True to the Reformed Faith
Obedient to the Great Commission



Sunday, September 20, 2026
8:30am
11:00am

Welcome to Christ Community Church

*For God's glory, to make and deploy mature
and equipped disciples of Jesus Christ.*

Whether you are a visitor or a member, it is a joy to worship our Lord Jesus Christ with you this morning. Please consider participating in our Discipleship Hour and Community Groups throughout the week as well.

Free wifi:
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equipped with a
hearing
assistance
system. Please
ask a Sound
Technician for a
receiver.

Hymns and
worship songs
are used by
permission.
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§ - denotes
congregation
Standing

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We believe it is right and good for children of all ages to be with the adult community in worship. Please do not hesitate to keep your child with you. However, we do offer Children's Church for 3-4 yr. olds. Those children participating can be dismissed to the children's wing during the song prior to the sermon.

Because we live in a fallen, broken, sinful world, we can come to Sunday morning worship at times with hearts weighed down with burdens, struggles, and concerns. It is not God's will that we shoulder these burdens and concerns alone. Each Sunday immediately following the worship service, there are people at the right front of the church who stand ready to listen to your concerns and to pray with you. So, whatever your concern, no matter how big or small, feel free to come, to share and to be prayed for.

Prepare yourself now for the highest calling of the people of God which is the worship of God in spirit and in truth. (John 4:24)

Cover artwork by Faith Wheeler

Reflections

C.S. Lewis: “Aim at heaven and you will get earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you get neither.”

Psalm 49:7-9: “Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice, that he should live on forever and never see the pit.

William Lane: “The man who seeks to secure his own existence by denial of his Lord brings about his own destruction. Paradoxically, the man who yields his life in loyalty to Jesus safeguards it in a deeper sense.”

Assisting with the service today:

- Rev. Ben Clarke, Assistant Pastor of Next Gen and Worship
- Rev. Jonathan Williams, Assistant Pastor of Adult Discipleship

Order of Worship

Welcome & Announcements

Hearing from the Savior

§ Call to Worship

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Responding to the Savior

§ Invocation

§ Song of Praise

Yet Not I, But Through Christ in Me

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer. There is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom, my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. For my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark but I am not forsaken. For by my side, the Saviour He will stay.
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing, for in my need, His power is displayed.
To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me. Through the deepest valley He will lead.
Oh the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven. The future sure, the price it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon, and He was raised to overthrow the grave.
To this I hold, my sin has been defeated. Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With every breath I long to follow Jesus. For He has said that He will bring me home.
And day by day I know He will renew me, until I stand with joy before the throne.
To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus. All the glory evermore to Him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me!

Hearing from the Savior

§ Responsive Reading

Isaiah 53:1-6

Pastor: Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

All: *For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground;*

Pastor: He had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

All: *Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

Pastor: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Rejoicing

All I Have is Christ

I once was lost in darkest night, yet thought I knew the way;
The sin that promised joy and life had led me to the grave.
I had no hope that You would own a rebel to Your will,
And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still.

But as I ran my hell-bound race, indifferent to the cost,
You looked upon my helpless state and led me to the cross.
And I beheld God's love displayed, You suffered in my place;
You bore the wrath reserved for me; now all I know is grace.

*Chorus: Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life*

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone and live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands could never come from me.
Oh Father, use my ransomed life in any way You choose,
And let my song forever be: My only boast is You.
Chorus: (2x)

Giving of Tithes & Offerings

Three ways to give: the Giving Box, online through the website, or mail to the church at PO Box 80787, Simpsonville, SC 29680

Prayers of the Church & The Lord's Prayer

Daniel & Courtney Hightower, Clemson RUF

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

§ Affirmation of Faith

*I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;*

*And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.*
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.*

*I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church**,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

The Apostles' Creed

*This refers to Jesus taking upon Himself the wrath of God for the sins of His people while upon the cross.

** This refers to the "universal church" that includes all the true elect of God from every tongue, tribe and nation throughout past, present and future history.

§ Song of Preparation*

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken

*Parents who desire may bring their 3-4 yr. olds to the children's wing for Children's Church.

Jesus, I my cross have taken, all to leave and follow thee;
Destitute, despised, forsaken, thou from hence my all shall be.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, all I've sought or hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition, God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me, they have left my Savior too;
Human hearts and looks deceive me; Thou art not, like man, untrue;
And, while Thou dost smile upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
foes may hate and friends disown me; Show Thy face, and all is bright.

Go then earthly fame and treasure, come disaster, scorn and pain;
In thy service pain is pleasure, with thy favor loss is gain.
I have called thee Abba Father, I have stayed my heart on thee;
Storms may howl and clouds may gather, all must work for good to me.

Soul, then know thy full salvation, rise o'er sin and fear and care;
Joy to find in every station, something still to do or bear;

Think what spirit dwells within thee, think what Father's smiles are thine;
Think that Jesus died to win thee, Child of heaven, canst thou repine.

Jesus, I my cross have taken.

Hearing from the Savior

Sermon Text

Mark 8:34 - 9:1

And calling the crowd to him with his disciples, he said to them, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. ³⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. ³⁶ For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? ³⁷ For what can a man give in return for his soul? ³⁸ For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

¹ And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with power."

Preaching of the Word

Rev. Paul Sanders

"Marks of Disciples"

Week after week we proclaim the Bible because we are convinced it is the inspired, infallible, and inerrant Word of God. That means that it comes to us from God, so it is true in everything that it claims. Therefore, you can trust it with all of your heart, and it will not let you down.

Responding to the Savior

§ Song of Response

O, The Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of Glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride.

See from His head, His hands, His feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down;
did ever such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown.

*Chorus: O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
bids me come and die and find that I may truly live.
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross
all who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.*

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small.
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Chorus

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Chorus

Hearing from the Savior

§ Benediction

2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

If you have a need or would like to find out more about the Gospel, the Post Worship Team stands ready to meet with you and pray. Simply make your way to the front right-hand side of the sanctuary after the Benediction, and a team member will be there to meet with you.

Space for Notes:

Discussion Questions for Community Groups & Families:

Series: Good New Breaking #27 · Mark 8:34 – 9:1 · “Marks of Disciples”

1. What was your top takeaway from the sermon?
2. Especially for our youth and children:
 - a. What were the seven marks of disciples brought out in this sermon?
 - b. For the sake of Christ, where is God calling you to say “no” to yourself this week?
3. What trial in your life is tempting you to distance yourself from Jesus?
4. Where is Jesus calling you to follow Him today in obedience?
5. What part of your life are you still trying to “save” instead of surrender?
6. What worldly gain most tempts you to compromise your soul?
7. Where are you most tempted to be ashamed of Christ or His words?
8. What earthly kingdom are you tempted to place your hope in?

Why Do We Do That?

The Apostles' Creed

“Christian truth could not possibly be put into a shorter and clearer statement.”

~Martin Luther on the Apostles' Creed

Creeds and Confessions of faith have fallen on hard times in evangelical churches. Accused of creating divisions and erecting walls that keep people out of the church, many congregations have adopted a “no creed but the Bible” stance in which statements like the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed are deemed outdated at best and, at worst, harmful.

It is true that creeds divide: they divide truth from error, and they divide true teachers from false teachers. It is true that creeds erect walls around a church: walls of protection and clarity within which Christians may pursue the Truth of God's holy Word in relative safety. The creeds of the church were developed to defend God's people against heresy and to define Christian orthodoxy.

The Apostles' Creed dates back at least to the second century A.D., and perhaps earlier. St. Ignatius, who was born about the time Christ's earthly ministry ended, wrote in familiar phrases that Christ was born “of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified and died and was raised from the dead.”

Even though it was not likely written by the Apostles, the creed bearing their name is in full agreement with the New Testament teachings of the Apostles and specifically attacks the heresy of Gnosticism. Gnostics believe that the physical universe is evil and that God did not make it (“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth”). Because they believe that the physical realm is evil, they also deny that God took on a human body in Christ (“And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary”). Gnosticism holds that the most important Christian doctrines were mysteries reserved for a select few (“the holy catholic church” stresses the universality of all of Christ's teachings) and they totally reject the resurrection of the body because the body is part of the evil physical realm (“the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body”). If you think Gnosticism is no longer a threat to the church, read “The Da Vinci Code,” and then recite the Apostles' Creed at the top of your lungs!

There are two phrases in the Apostles' Creed that some folks find confusing. “The Holy Catholic Church” refers NOT to the Roman church but to all of the elect from every tongue, tribe, and nation past, present, and future. “He descended into Hell” refers to the reality that Jesus endured the wrath of God for the sins of His people in those hours upon the cross.

The creeds we use in worship are not the very Word of God, but they are distilled from it and true to it, and we recite them because they state in compact form all of the essentials for being a Bible-believing Christian. The creeds help us to pass along those essentials from one generation to the next, and they tie generations of believers together by laying down a specific set of fundamental truths.

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Mark your calendars:

September

- 20: SPUR Groups, 5pm
- 25: Men’s Ministry Kick-Off, 6:30pm

More information can be found in the Update, on the app, and/or website.

- The first Sunday of each month we take a collection of personal care items for the Center for Community Services. Items can be placed in the wagon located next to the Information Desk in the foyer.
- Members can pick up a monthly giving report summary in the Deacons’ office.

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Staff

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